



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

SUMMARY

Foreword

This is a report on the activities of the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2025, which is submitted to Parliament, the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Government in accordance with Article 19(1) of the Intelligence Oversight Act.

A specific theme of the Intelligence Ombudsman's previous annual report was the impact of changes in the operating environment – related to the geopolitical security situation and digitalisation – on intelligence legislation, its application, and the oversight of compliance with intelligence legislation. This theme is further explored in this annual report. As the security situation evolves, the importance of the regulatory framework governing the activities of various security authorities is increasingly emphasised. The topic is more relevant than ever, particularly due to pending legislative projects concerning civil and military intelligence as well as threat-based criminal intelligence. The experience gained from civilian and military intelligence can be utilised in connection with these legislative projects, and projects may also affect the duties of the Intelligence Ombudsman.



Kimmo Hakonen
Intelligence Ombudsman



Mission, Vision and Strategic Guidelines





MISSION

We supervise the legality of intelligence gathering methods and the use of intelligence, as well as the legality of other intelligence operations, and promote the realisation of legal protection and best practises in intelligence activities.

VISION

For our part, we ensure that intelligence activities are lawful, comply with good administration and respect fundamental and human rights.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINES

-  We supervise effectively
-  We communicate cogently
-  We learn from international cooperation
-  We network academically

We supervise effectively

- In particular, we will ensure that intelligence is targeted only at activities that pose a serious threat to national security.
- We review all decisions on the use of intelligence gathering methods and participate in all court proceedings on such matters.
- We will carry out a targeted review of other intelligence documentation relevant to the supervision of the legal protection of the persons targeted by the intelligence and of the rights of non-targets.
- We carry out thematic inspections, where appropriate, in cooperation with other intelligence overseers.
- We will make use of the wide range of forms and means of legality control available to the Intelligence Ombudsman as far as possible without compromising the independence and autonomy.

We communicate cogently

- We provide relevant, adequate and timely information on the tasks and activities of the Intelligence Ombudsman, taking into account the different target audiences for communication, both at home and abroad.
- We present information through the main communication channel of the Intelligence Ombudsman – the website – in clear language and using visual illustration.

We learn from international cooperation

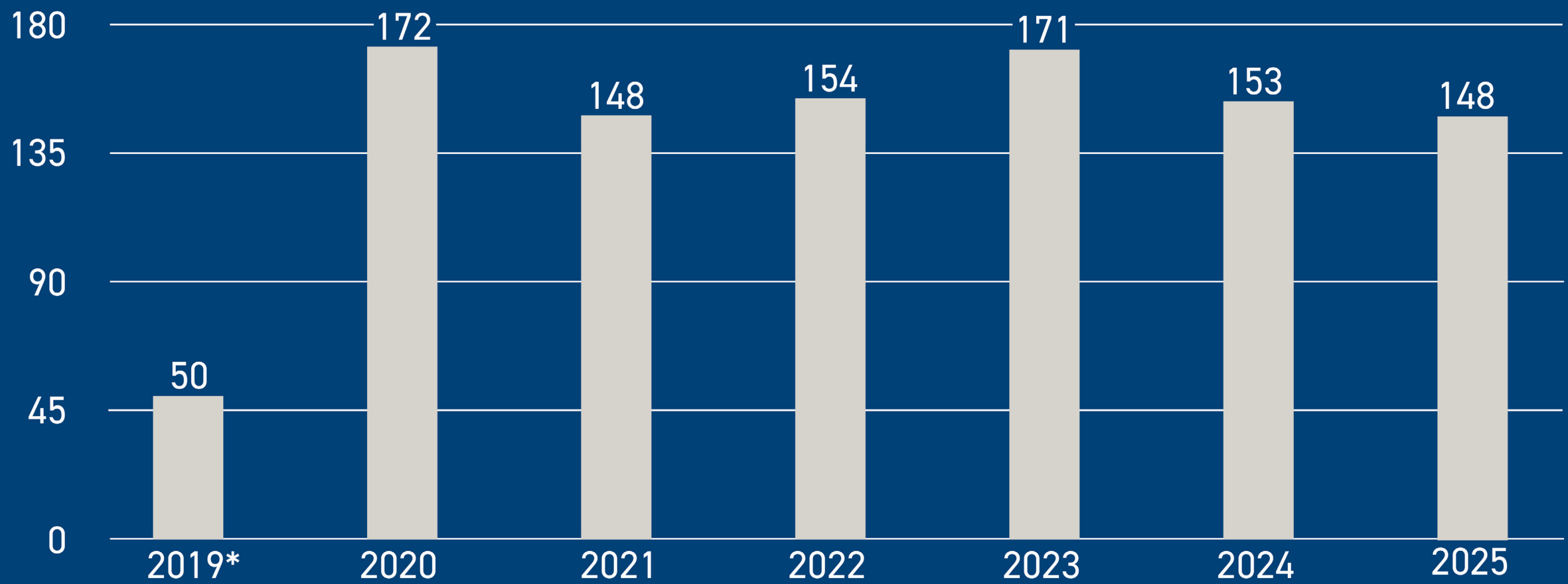
- We gain knowledge and build understanding of the new supervision targets and methods used by our oversight partners.
- We adopt and share good practices, in particular between the Nordic countries.

We network academically

- We follow intelligence research and teaching and maintain a snapshot of ongoing research projects and theses.
- We contribute to the debate on intelligence by publishing news on intelligence research on the Intelligence Ombudsman's website and by participating in university collaborations.



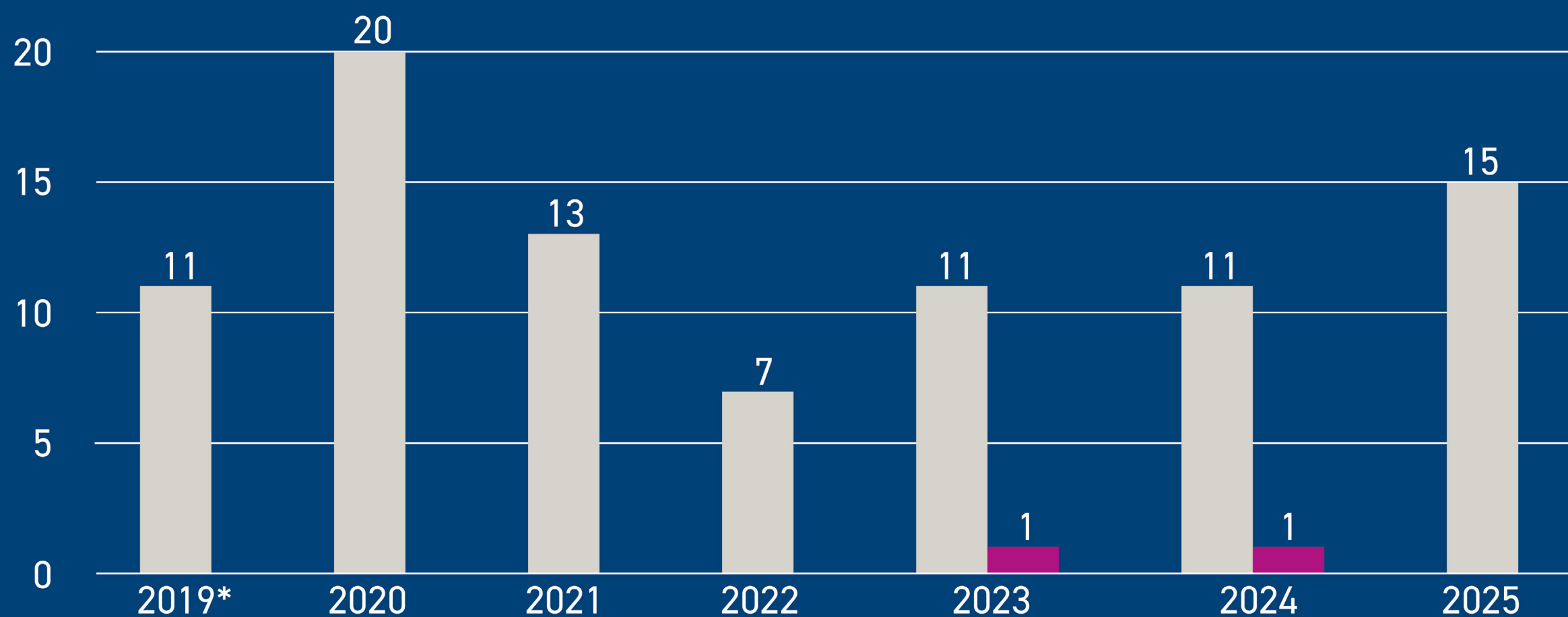
CONTROL VISITS



Number of control visits by the Intelligence Ombudsman to intelligence authorities in 2019–2025.

** The Intelligence Ombudsman became operational on 1.5.2019.*

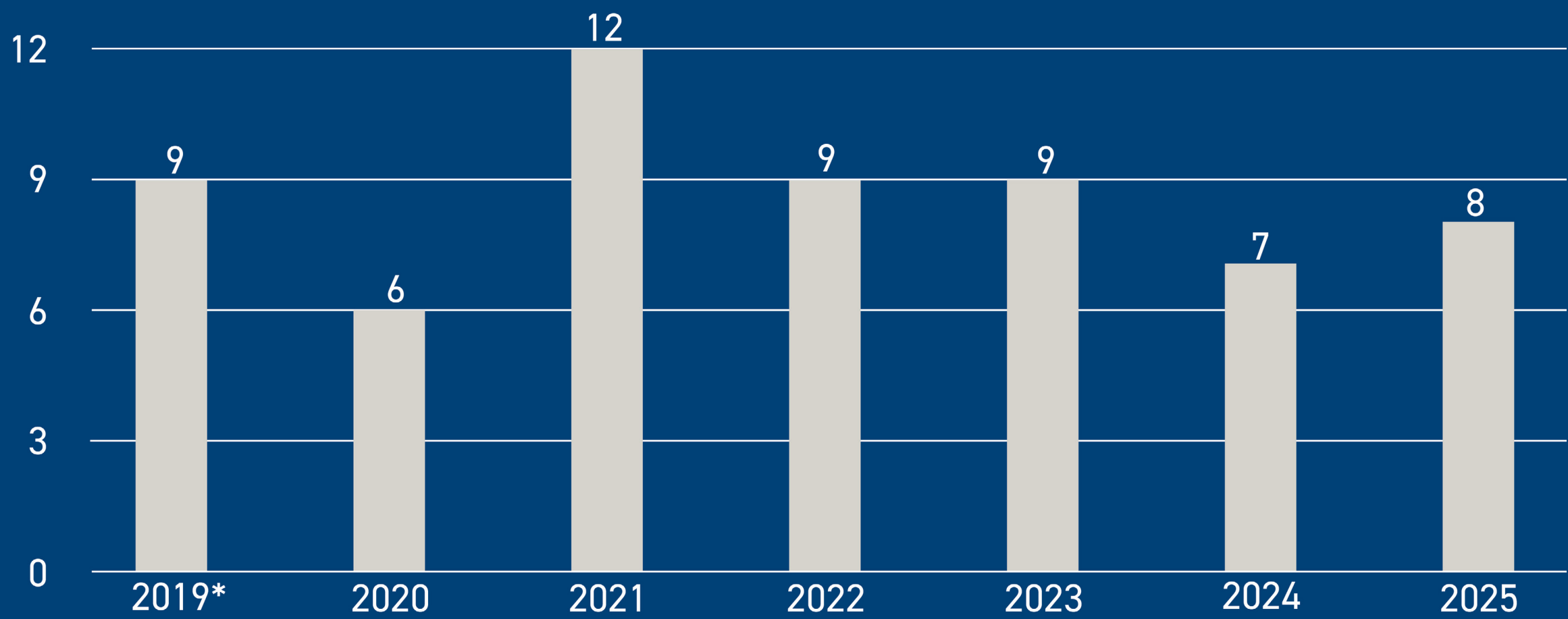
INVESTIGATION REQUESTS AND COMPLAINTS



Number on investigation requests (grey bars) and complaints deemed admissible (lilac bars) made to the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2025.

** The Intelligence Ombudsman became operational on 1.5.2019.*

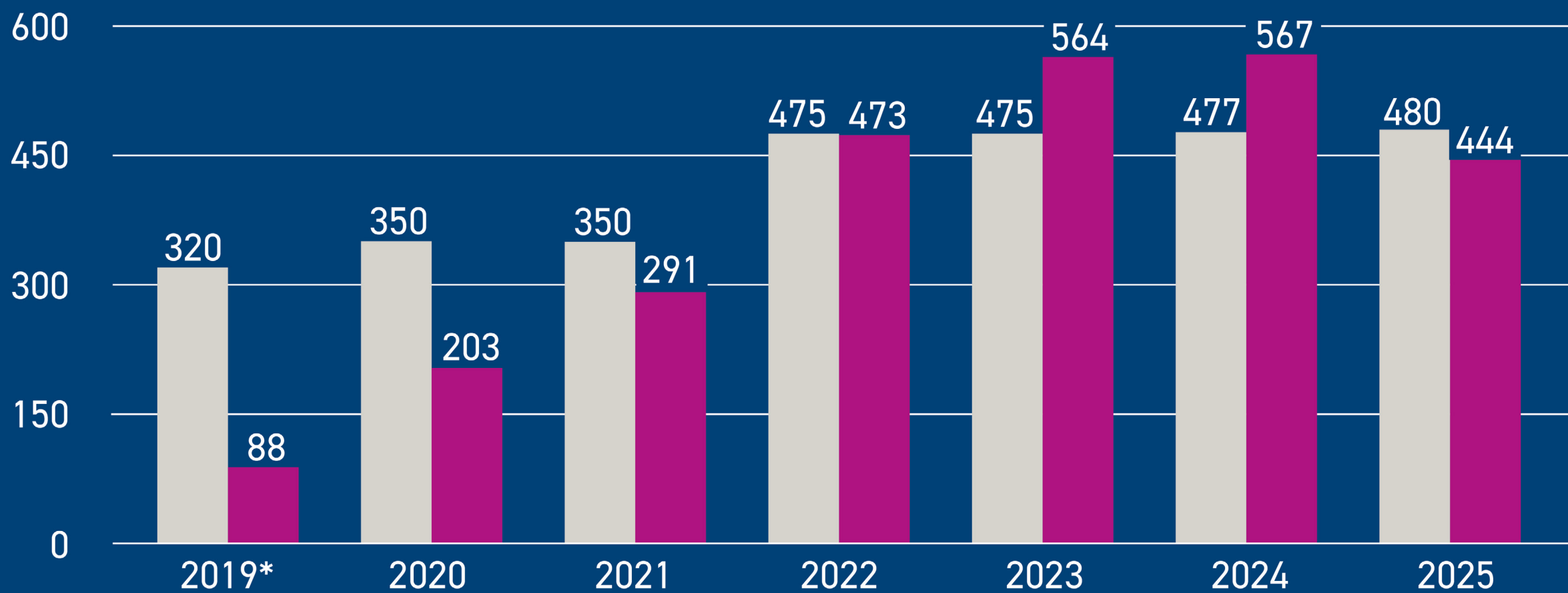
STATEMENTS



Number of statements issued by the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2025.

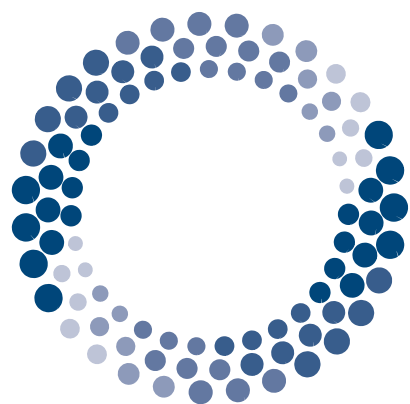
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FUNDING



The budget (grey bars) and actual operating expenditure (lilac bars) of the Intelligence Ombudsman in 2019–2025 in thousands of euros. Premises costs for the Intelligence Ombudsman were covered 2019–2021 from the Data Protection Ombudsman’s budget.

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